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TUESDAY
DECEMBER 8, 1953

Went around to the Visners' to shave, our water having been cut off yesterday. A horde of specialists in booby-trapping are at work in the house this morning.

I went to the Department and read the Bermuda cables. Churchill came out strongly for EDC, saying it was necessary for the salvation of France and was not a matter to be mixed up with a few fields in the Saar Valley. He did suggest German membership in NATO as an alternative, but President Eisenhower declared there was no practicable alternative to EDC.

Bidault handled the French case eloquently and plausibly, but can of course give no binding assurances of early parliamentary action. I hope the conferees are fully aware of this. When he spoke of how, single-handedly, Laniel (who has been ill in bed during the whole sojourn) had steered the French Government through the recent grave parliamentary crisis some of those present, who knew that on that occasion Laniel and Bidault were scarcely on speaking terms and that at one point Bidault had proffered his resignation from the Cabinet. must have been at least slightly amazed at this version of harmony and admiration. For Bidault, under the embarrassing circumstances of representing a moribund government, to have successfully insisted upon serious consideration being given by the U. S. and U. K. relative to the stationing of troops in Europe was no mean triumph of diplomatic skill, or inversely of allied naiveté.

I had a long talk and a cup of coffee with Bedell. [redacted] He is going to try to get the Coal and Steel Community investment proposal in shape to be discussed at Paris between Dulles and Monnet.

I returned home to view the mechanics wiring the house. Polly Visner had brought over a bottle of sherry, which E., she, Kay Graham and I gratefully consumed in E.'s stripped bedroom. Camphor flakes were strewn over the floors.

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Kay says [redacted] the fight is still raging at Beauvoir school as to whether negro and white children should be educated there together. Some of the parents apparently expressed fears this might lead to mixed marriages. When Phil was solemnly consulted he said the only thing he asked was that his children should in each instance marry individuals of the opposite sex.

We had an uproarious lunch at an elegant new dive on Wisconsin Avenue. I stopped a moment at Kay Eicholz's Obelisk Gallery to see some of her new paintings by Italians and got home just as the electricians were about to wire us out.

Truman, the perfect chauffeur, had kindly obtained permission from Bedell to take us to the station where we caught the five o'clock train for New York. We spent the night with Ellen and Jim at 280 Park Avenue. Jim's book, Those Perplexing Argentines, has already sold to the extent of several thousand copies.

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